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APR 28 2008

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REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed on November 28, 2008. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-16 and 19-22. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify the invention. Claims 23-27 have been cancelled. New claim 28 was added. Support for new claim 28 can be found throughout the specification, and in original claim 1. The Application currently includes claims 1, 6-16, 19-22 and 28. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

The Office Action states that Group II of the Restriction, non-elected claims 2, 3, and 17, were re-filed as new claims 23-27, and thus, claims 23-27 were being withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention. With this Amendment, claims 23-27 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The "such as" phrase has been deleted from claim 1, and set forth in new claim 28 without the use of "such as". Withdrawal of the rejection and the addition of claim 28 are requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 7-11, 16 and 20-22 as being obvious over Hamstra, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,988 ("Hamstra patent") in view of Sakakibara, U.S. Patent No. 5,727,411 ("Sakakibara patent"). The Office Action alleges that the Hamstra patent discloses a metal cylinder workpiece 10 having various diameters 11, 28 wherein the workpiece 10 is clamped down by a clamping device 16 and the workpiece and a first roller tool 20 are rotated relative to each other. The Office Action alleges that the workpiece is deformed by the first tool while the workpiece is moved along its axis of rotation. The Office Action alleges that a second forming tool 20b is placed into contact with the workpiece at a position behind the first tool and references, Figures 5a and 5b. The Office Action concludes that a tensile stress is produced between the roller tools and a mandrel 22 having a cylindrical region 23 and a tapered region 24. The Office Action states that Hamstra does not disclose that the roller forming tools are on a common holder. The Office Action alleges that the Sakakibara patent teaches that it is known to have a roller holder 20 for roller tools 31-33. Roller tools 31, 32 have roller portions 31b, 32b one behind the other engaging workpiece portions at different longitudinal portions of the workpiece. The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to